

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 7-11, 15, 17-21, 25 and 27-35 are pending in the current application. Claims 1, 11, 21, 31 and 32-35, the independent claims, have been amended. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the most recent Office Action, claims 1-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Lee et al. (US Patent No. 6,601,101) in view of Davies et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,701). Applicants submit that the amended independent claims are patentable for at least the following reasons.

The independent claims were amended, in the paper dated November 4, 2009, to make even more clear that they relate to a file server. Moreover, as was pointed out in the November 4, 2009 Amendment, the object identifying information is information for identifying *files stored in* server. It is not information for identifying servers themselves. In spite of the foregoing, the Examiner, in the Continuation Sheet of the Advisory Action dated November 18, 2009, maintained his position that the recited “object identifying information” corresponds to the Virtual IP address in Lee.

However, the Virtual IP address in Lee directly *represents a server*; that is, it represents a device, rather than identifying files stored on servers. The recited object identifying information identifies files that may be stored on servers. Although this is believed to have been clear even as the claims stood previously, to expedite prosecution, the independent claims have been amended to recite “data object identifying information.” This makes it even more clear that the object identifying information is for identifying a piece of data, such as a file, and not a device.

As Lee’s Virtual IP address is used for identifying a device, and not a file, it cannot be said to correspond to the recited data object identifying information. Davies, discussed in previous responses, does not remedy the abovementioned deficiency of Lee as a reference against the amended independent claims.

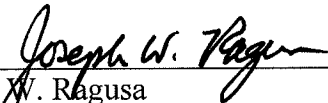
The independent claims have also been amended to more clearly recite that the intermediate device extracts a regularity *of a pattern that is* common to a plurality of obtained items of the accessing data object identifying information. This amendment is supported in the specification at page 30, line 8 through page 31, line 2. Applicants submit that this even further distinguishes the independent claims over the cited references.

The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims and are likewise allowable.

In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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